

**The CASE of the CITIZENS and SHOP-KEEPERS
of LONDON. with respect to the PEDLARS within this City,
and the several Markets thereof; as it was, by a Great Number of Citizens,
Presented to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen.**

May 14
1696.

Right Honourable!

October 25.
1695.
Lme, Mayor.

SINCE the making the late Act of ~~Common-Council~~ for Clearing the Publick Markets of this City, from *Hawkers, Pedlars, and Petty-Chapmen*; they have (~~been~~) ~~perpetrated~~ ~~the same~~ ~~offences~~ ~~as before~~ ~~the said Act~~ ~~was made~~ ~~and~~ ~~the said Markets~~ ~~are~~ ~~now~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~ever~~, in Contempt of the said Law, and of many other Laws made against the like Offenders, to the great Dishonour of the Government of this City; and if not timely Prevented, to the Utter Ruine and Decay of many of the *Citizens* and *Shop-keepers* of the same.

And Your Lordship being, by the Laws of this Kingdom, and the Constitutions of this City, *Governour and Super-Visor* of the said Markets; Your Lordship, by Vertue of that Office, hath a Power to Reform and Remove all Abuses and Nufances that are in the said Markets.

And the Persons Offending, being Pedlars, who wander abroad with their Wares, from the places of their Abode; they are by the Laws of this Kingdom, Adjudged and Deemed, *Rogues* and *Vagabonds*.

39 Eliz.
Chap. 4.
1 Jacob. Ch. 7.
12 Carolo 2d.

And Your Lordship as a Justice of Peace, is not only Impowered, but Obligated to punish such Offenders when brought before you, as the Law directs, which is, *By Ordering them to be Whipt till they be Bloody, and Past away with a Testimonial of such Whipping, from Parish to Parish, the next straitway to the place of their Abode.* And whosoever shall Lett, Disturb or Hinder the Execution of this Law, or any part thereof, shall forfeit for every such Offence, the sum of Five Pounds, to be Levied by Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods, by a Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any Two Justices of the Peace, upon the Testimony of Two Witnesses, and the Party Offending to be bound to his Good Behaviour.

Now, *My Lord*, This being matter of Fact, it is Humbly Prayed, That Your Lordship, with the rest of the Justices of the Peace in this City, will Exert your Authority, for the Relief of the Citizens and Shop-keepers of the same, who have an Undoubted Right, to Exercise their Several Trades within this City and the Liberties thereof, Exclusive of all others, not Qualified according to the Laws and Constitutions of the same.

Every Citizens *Freedom*, is as much his Property, as his Goods or his Estate, it being that which he hath Purchased with his Money, or Service, or both, or which descended to him as his Birth-Right. It is certain, That Your Lordship, and every Magistrate of this City, is in a special manner obliged to Protect the Citizens of this City, in the Enjoyments of their Priviledges and Franchizes.

By the Laws of this City, Confirmed by Parliament, Your Lordship, and the Court of Aldermen, have a Power to Appoint any Person or Persons, to Seize any such Wares or Marchandizes, which shall by any Colour or Ways whatsoever, Directly or Indirectly, be Sold Uttered or put to Sale, any other ways then in the House, Shop, Stall or Ware-house of the Inhabitants of this City; (Victuals in the Market-Place, and in Market time, only Excepted.)

44 Eliz.
Gerrard
Mayor.

There hath been a *Foreign-Taker*, formerly belonging to this City, who it is supposed, was employ'd to Seize the Goods of such Offenders; and though the name of such an Office is still Continued, and the Charge of Three Pound per Week upon the City, paid out of the Chamber upon the Account of the said Office; yet notwithstanding the Use of the said Office, as it is Beneficial to the City, hath for a long time been Suspended; which is humbly Prayed, that your Lordship and the Court of Aldermen will take into Your consideration.

There is no doubt but the Chamber of London loseth at least One Thousand Pound per Annum that would arise from Fines and Forfeitures, if there were but a due Execution of the Laws and Ordinances of this City, besides what an unexpressible Damage, the Citizens and Shop-keepers suffer by such Illegal Traders.

As to the Markets, the City, in their Grant to the Farmers, have made them Covenant against Alienating the Markets, or making any Incroachments, under a Penalty; and to abide by all such Regulations as shall be made from time to time by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, &c.

NOTE, THAT whereas the Serjeant and Yeoman of the Channel, Receive each of them Three Pounds per Week, out of the Chamber of London, by vertue of an Act of Common Council, made 1674. they are in the said Act Obligated to the performance of the Duties following, in these words, viz.

Provided always the aforesaid Officers do give their diligent Attendance in keeping the Streets from all Nufances, and Suppressing all Stalls of Herbs, Oranges, Apples, Lace-Sellers, and other Petty Traders or Hawkens, or Forefallers, in any of the Streets, Lanes, Passages, Inns, or other places in the City of London and Liberties thereof.

And for default of doing their duty therein, to forfeit such part of their weekly Sallery, as shall be ordered by the Comitty appointed by this Court, for managing the Publick Markets of this City, &c.

Now, Were but these Officers aforesaid, Compeld to performe the duties of their Places, or their Salleries withheld for their Neglects therein; and the Farmers of the Markets effectually Prosecuted for their Notorious Breach of Covenants, it would be of Unspeakable Benefit and Advantage to the Citizens and Shop-keepers of this City; and a Vindication of the Government thereof from a Reflection which otherwise will naturally arise, of their Disposing the City Revenue on Unnecessary Salleries, whilst many of their Poor Orphans are ready to starve for want of their Just Debts: and the Cry against Extortion, Oppression, and Inclosed Shops and Slaughter-Houses, and other Irregularities committed in the Markets, would soon have an End; to the Honour of the Government of this City, and Ease of the Poor Oppressed Market People, and bringing down the price of Victuals.